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Jobs & Earnings Push Stock to New All-Time Highs

Payrolls increased by 115,000 in April, handily beating Street estimates.

"I think anything is possible if you have the mindset and the will and desire to do it and put the time in."

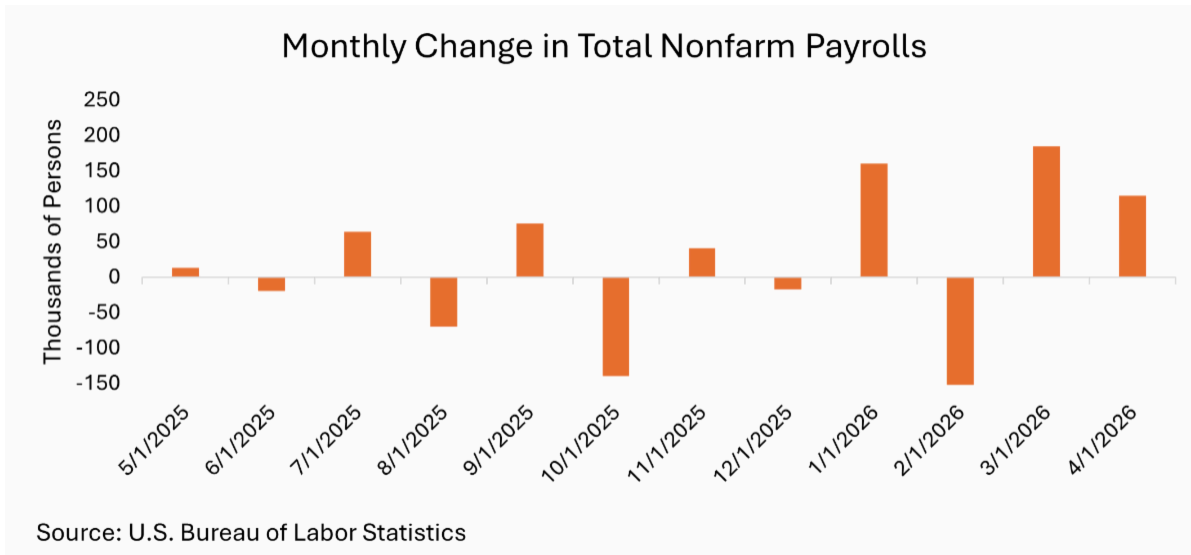
– Roger Clemens

Equity markets continue to push to new all-time highs thanks to strong corporate earnings releases, which show healthy fundamentals for both companies and stocks as a whole. Stocks were also helped by April's jobs report also came in better than expected.

Geopolitical tensions still remain at the forefront of investors' minds as the United States, Israel, and Iran seek a peace deal to bring the conflict to a close. Both sides have been under a ceasefire for the past few weeks in order to let peace talks commence. That ceasefire was tested last week when President Trump's plan to have the U.S. Navy escort commercial vessels through the Strait ended shortly after it began, resulting in both sides exchanging fire. The markets seem optimistic that a resolution is near, but the path to get there will likely continue to be a rocky one.

Labor Market

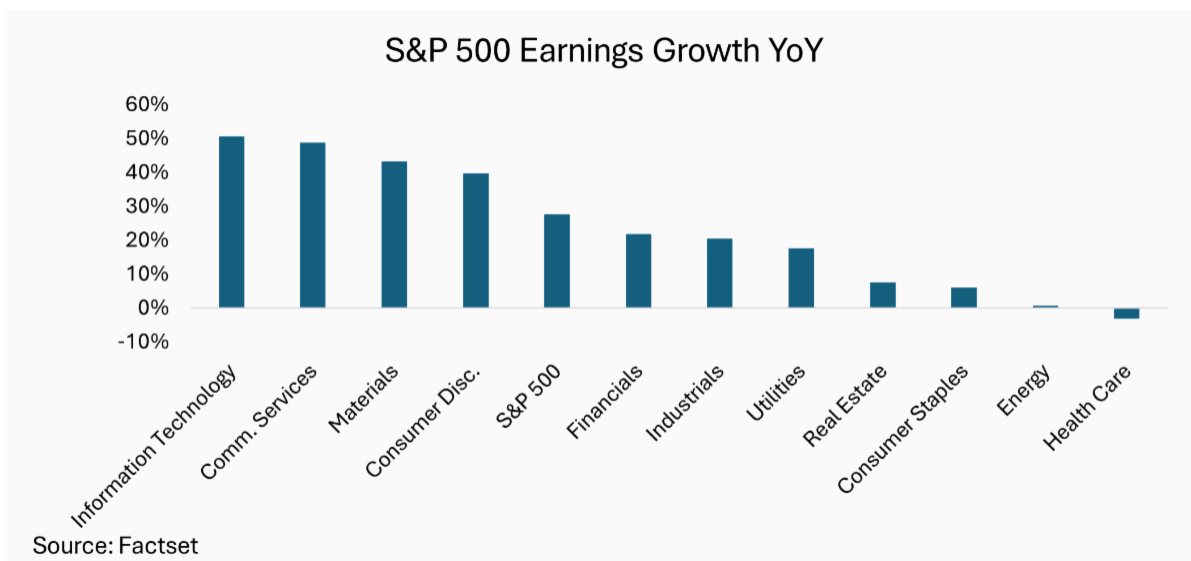
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, payrolls increased by 115,000 in April, handily beating Street estimates. The combined reports for February and March were revised downwards by 16,000.



Through the first four months of the year, the U.S. economy has added just over 300,000 jobs, nearly double the amount over the same period in 2025, while the unemployment rate has remained relatively steady, and wage growth has slowed. Overall, the labor market seems to be on a better footing to start the year, but the data doesn't show a trend reversal away from a relatively weak market.

Earnings Season

First-quarter earnings season is off to a great start. With 89% of S&P 500 companies reporting their results, the blended growth rate for the index is 27.7%, the highest since Q4 2021. (source: FactSet).



The AI-related companies in technology and communication services are helping the overall market with those sectors, both providing roughly 50% year-over-year growth. We heard from Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) last week, which showed a continuing trend for the semiconductor companies – great sales growth in data center, as many companies invest in their AI capabilities and build out.

In case you missed it: Watch Kevin Simpson on CNBC's 'Closing Bell'
Kevin Simpson Writes Covered Calls on Intel and Micron



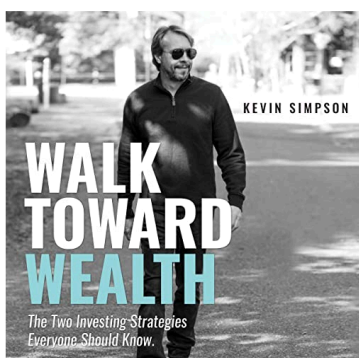
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The Road Ahead

The war in Iran should continue to give markets bouts of volatility as both sides seek to bring the conflict to an end. Luckily, markets are more focused on fundamentals and earnings releases to fuel the rally to all-time highs. April's CPI report will highlight this week's economic news, but we will also receive April's PPI, Retail Sales, and Industrial Production reports. Inflation from energy will be a key point in this release. Earnings season will start to wind down. This week's reporting companies include Cisco, Alibaba, and Tower Semiconductor, to name a few.

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